(b) the total length of railway lines being converted into broad gauge in Tamil Nadu; and

(c) whether any time-frame has been fixed by Government for conversion of all metre gauge lines into broad gauge lines in Tamil Nadu?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) 1184 Km of metre gauge lines falling fully/partly in the State of Tamil Nadu are existing.

(b) Work on 1109 Kms of metre gauge lines falling fully/partly in the State of Tamil Nadu has been taken up.

(c) Majority of metre gauge lines are planned to be converted to broad gauge during Eleventh Five Year Plan depending upon availability of resources.

Replacement of incandescent lamps by CFL

922. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry has drawn up plans to replace more than 29 lakh incandescent lamps with Compact Fluorescent Lamps (CFL) in railway premises and staff quarters all over India to save substantially on energy bills;

(b) whether this project would be taken up at no cost to the Railways and if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether his Ministry has also considered the extent of environmental hazards caused by used CFL which has toxic coatings on its shells?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir. In this project 4 nos. of CFLs will be supplied free of cost to the each Railway employee residing in Railway quarters. A tender in this regard has been opened on 29.07.08, which is under consideration.

(c) Yes, Sir.

Slow growth in steel production

923. SHRI N.R. GOVINDARAJAR: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there has been slow growth in steel production in recent times in the country;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether correspondingly import of steel has been increased; and

(d) if so, the measures taken or proposed to be taken to, (i) increase the domestic production (ii) lessen country's dependence on import of steel and (iii) ensure supply of raw materials on large scale for domestic steel producers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): (a) As per the provisional data of steel production for the year 2007-08 compiled by the Joint Plant Committee, the rate of growth in production has come down to 5.2% in 2007-08 from 12.8% in 2006-07. During the period April-August 2008, the growth of steel production (provisional data) has been recorded as 4.2%.

(b) Currently most of the integrated steel plants are operating at maximum of their installed capacities. Moreover, a number of capacity expansion projects by major steel companies are undergoing. The slower percentage growth in steel production may, therefore, be attributed to relatively higher base in the preceding years.

(c) The import of total finished steel has increased during the last two years as shown in the table below:-

	Total finished steel	
Year	Import (mt)	Annual growth (%)
2006-07	4.93	14
2007-08*	6.92	40

Source: Joint Plant Committee, *=provisional

(d) Leading domestic steel producers, both in public and private sector, have announced plans to expand their existing capacities through both Greenfield and Brownfield ventures. As per the latest estimates based on these capacity additions, the crude steel production capacity is likely to reach around 124 million tonnes by 2012. In order to promote the domestic steel industry and to meet the projected demand, the Government has constituted an Inter-Ministerial Group (IMG), under the chairmanship of Secretary(Steel), to monitor and coordinate the issues concerning major steel investments in the country related to infrastructure, raw material supply, environmental clearance and other resource constraints.

Setting up of ultra mega steel plants

924. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that a large number of steel companies have announced the setting up of Steel Plants in the country;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Government has received a large number of representations for setting up of Ultra Mega Steel Plants on the concept of Ultra Mega Power Plants; and

(c) if so, the steps Government has taken or propose to be taken for allowing steel companies to set up Ultra Mega Steel Plants in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): (a) As per the latest information in the Ministry of Steel, 193 investors have signed Memorandum of Understandings with various State Governments to set up steel projects at proposed cost of Rupees five lakh fourteen thousand Crores approx. Investment plan in respect of certain major steel investors, proposing to set up steel projects are as below:-

(Crude steel capacity in million tonnes)

S.No.	Name of the company	Current production capacity	Capacity likely to be achieved by 2011-12	Total proposed capacity by 2019-20	Total approximate estimated cost as informed by company (in Crores)
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Steel Authority of India Ltd.	12.84	24.84	60.0	78845.00*
2.	Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Ltd.	2.9	6.3	6.3	8962.00
3	NMDC Ltd.	-	-	3.0	16000.00
4	Tata Steel Ltd.	5.0	13.0	33.5	87900.00
5.	Essar Steel Ltd.	4.6	14.50	20.5	68000.00